GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1294
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2007
SHORTAGE OF FOODGRAINS
Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the findings of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), that the world will face a severe shortage of foodgrains due to lower foodgrains production in 2008 and that India would be worst affected;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the policy of the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): In the Food Outlook brought out in early November 2007, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has forecasted among other things that the global cereal stocks by the close of the seasons ending in 2008 are expected to remain at 427 million tonnes. With regard to India, FAO has stated that among various countries, the inventories of wheat are anticipated to increase in only a few cases, notably in India. This is mainly due to a rise in this year`s production and large imports before the start of the season. With regard to paddy, FAO has forecasted large absolute gains in production in countries like India.

(c): To increase production of rice, wheat and pulses, initiatives have been taken by launching National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the States to increase public investment in agriculture & allied sectors. Under NFSM, it is proposed to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10 million, 8 million and 2 million tonnes respectively by 2011-12.